



BARTER THEATRE

MONOLOGUE PROMPTS

SHINE

Illuminating Black Stories



BARTER
THEATRE

2024

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR...

We are seeking submissions for our 4th Annual SHINE: Illuminating Black Stories event, specifically 3-5 minute monologues inspired by the following prompts on education, educators and students in Black Appalachian life. We encourage creative interpretations that can evolve into full-length plays about the Black Appalachian experience. Your submissions do not need to adhere strictly to actual events. Instead, we are looking for dramatic or comedic pieces that explore the potential situations these individuals might encounter, crafting compelling narratives suitable for theatrical production.

We are not interested in biographical summaries; rather, we seek dynamic and engaging scenarios that give the impression of being extracted from a larger work. Our objective is to develop pieces that have the potential to be expanded into full-length plays, suitable for production not only at Barter but also on stages nationwide.

We look forward to seeing how you bring these fascinating characters to life through your unique storytelling.

Thanks for submitting!

Terrance Jackson

Terrance Jackson
Director of Black Stories Black Voices
tjackson@bartertheatre.com



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1. FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Write a monologue where a young Black student or teacher in Appalachia prepares for their first day at a new school. Maybe it's an all-white school? Maybe it's a historically Black school? Maybe they were forced because a parent moved for a new job or because of integration? Explore their hopes, fears, and aspirations for the school year and how they plan to navigate their new environment.

2. MENTORSHIP

Craft a monologue from the point of view of an older mentor or teacher who has successfully navigated the educational system in Appalachia. Focus on the advice given, the mentor's personal anecdotes, and the student's reactions and dreams for their future. This teacher's encouragement and belief in the student's potential has the power to transform their outlook on education and life in Appalachia.

3. COLLEGE DREAMS

Develop a monologue where a Black Appalachian student faces significant challenges in their pursuit of higher education, such as financial difficulties, lack of resources, or discrimination. Highlight their resilience and the hope they find through community support and personal determination. How they long to stay connected to their Appalachian roots while pursuing higher education.

4. KATHERINE GOEBEL JOHNSON | [CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Long before she was the mathematical genius behind Alan Shepherd's space launch, Katherine Goebel taught French and music at the segregated Carnegie school in Marion, VA. A West Virginia native who changed how we see the world – literally. Compose a monologue from her perspective, or from the viewpoint of someone who interacted with her—a classmate, perhaps—or someone who was inspired by her in some way.

5. JEWEL H. BELL | [CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

She's known as the Jewel in King's crown, and for good reason – Jewel Bell served with King University in Bristol, TN for seven straight decades. Known as Ma Bell, GG, Gran, or simply the Queen of King, Jewel retired from King in September 2022 at the age of 93 – but will forever be considered part of the President's team. Write a monologue inspired by Mrs. Bell and her time at King University.



Pictured: Katherine Goebel Johnson

OUR HOPE...

It is our hope that by connecting Black playwrights (wherever they are located) with stories from Black Appalachian communities, we can:

- Create monologues or scenes that can be developed into full-length plays
- Create/produce a canon of work that explores the Black Appalachian experience, both past and present
- Establish and cultivate relationships with Black playwrights and other Black theatre artists
- Give audiences accessibility to new perspectives on Black life in Appalachia



Pictured: Jewel H. Bell

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Playwright must be Black.
- Monologues must be about one of the prompts above.
- Monologues must be 3-5 minutes in length.
- Monologues must be unpublished and not have had a professional production.
- Must be submitted electronically.

Please submit monologues to: TJACKSON@BARTERTHEATRE.COM

Submission Deadline: November 1, 2024

2-3 monologues will be selected to be performed at our 4th Annual SHINE:
Illuminating Black Stories event during Barter's Appalachian Festival of Plays and
Playwrights (Jan./Feb. 2025 – date TBD)



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LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR SUBMISSION!



Pictured: Terrance Jackson



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